

REGIONAL AUTISM TEAM MEETING

September 23, 2005

Present: Penny Adams, Joyce Alfred, Shannon Batchelor, Leanne Coffman, Laura Denning, Vickie Embry, MaryAnn Forbes, Regina Guthrie, Kim Higginbotham, Vicki Houk, Cindy Hurt, Joyce Lopez, Debra Myers, Connie Poynter, Janice Smith, Kelly Wanta, Debbie Walton, Shelia Wethington, and Cynthia York.

Absent: Robert Allen, Marty Boman, Amy Carter, Celeste Hinton, Karin Holland, Linda Hunt, Dana McCubbins, Candy Stolt, & Beth Waddel.

Business

New Members & Update member roster

The group welcomed several new members this year. Welcome Kim Higginbotham (Barren), Shannon Batchelor (Todd), Laura Denning (Warren) Members were asked to verify membership information on roster. Six members stated that they did not have notebook information. Deb Myers to make copies and bring to next meeting.

Sharing of Miscellaneous Information related to Autism

- **KATC Conference in June 2005**

Those who attended this conference discussed the sessions and shared information. One session provided a packet of providers in state that serve children with autism

- **ASA Conference in July 2005**

Those who attended the Autism of America Conference in Nashville shared information obtained: Mercury and Immunizations, Social Stories Website, etc.

- **ABLLS Training October 21 from 8:30-11:30**

The group discussed the need for this training to be all day since districts do not like to release teachers for half day activities. The group discussed possible topics for the afternoon session. It was decided to include half day training on Social Stories for the afternoon. Deb Myers and Vicki Embry to present. Event will be held at Hillview Heights Church on Nashville Road.

- **Relationship Development Intervention (RDI)**

The group discussed briefly the RDI program. Deb Myers had attended a training last fall and developed an overview sheet. Will share with group through email. May consider having a teacher using this method come and discuss with group at next meeting.

- **Regional Data Development on Strategies Implemented in Region**

After discussion and review of current listings, it was decided that the form will be completed through email to each RAT member. Upon

receiving, the RAT member will indicate which strategies are being implemented by specific teachers in their districts. This information will be updated and returned to Deb Myers who will then combine the data into one form. The results will be shared at our next meeting.

Autism 101 Teacher Tool Kit

Purpose: To provide introductory information on autism to school personnel in the region.

Organization: Two tool kits will be developed and housed at Caveland Educational Support Center. Districts will be provided copies of any basic information. Books and curriculum items will be purchased by the district should they decide to make their own tool kit.

Contents with Persons Responsible:

- 1) Table of Contents
- 2) General Characteristics of autism (**Janice Carter**)
- 3) How to sheets (**Deb Myers**)
- 4) Overview of prominent strategies (**Deb Myers**)
- 5) Hidden Epidemic CD (**Deb Myers & Joyce Alfred**)
- 6) Informational and Instructional Resource Lists (books, websites, publishers) **ONLY FAVORITES! (Everyone)**
- 7) BOOKS: Tasks Galore Set, Treasure Chest of Behavior Strategies, The Source of Autism **ONLY FAVORITES! (Everyone)**
- 8) Brochures of various resource agencies (e.g. KATC, KAP, CESC, TRIAD, WCEC, WKU CEC) – (**Regina Guthrie**)
- 9) Parent Information, (regional support groups, children books on autism, sleeping/eating issues) (**Everyone**)
- 10) Regional Professionals who diagnose autism (**Vicki Embry**)
- 11) Community Providers listings (**Janice Smith**)
- 12) CESC Library listings on Autism and AT library list (**Deb Myers**)
- 13) Sixth Sense curriculum for peers (**Deb Myers/Vicki Embry**)
- 14) Sample of Social Stories (**Everyone**)

Assignments due before Holiday break in December. Get your information to Deb Myers by December 9th.

Individual Committee Work

Each committee was to review Action Plan and make sure it is what we want for the upcoming year and to identify a chairperson.

Professional Development (Chairperson: Cynthia York)

Medical Interventions: Having a difficult time identifying someone to do this. Vicki Embry to contact Dr. Littleton for January meeting.

Make/Take with teacher: Decided to discontinue this “show and tell” program since difficult for folks to come. Will continue to provide Structured Teaching Make and Take workshop specific to a district.

Aspergers Trainings: Would like to get a regional training in this area. Regina Guthrie to contact TRIAD at Vanderbilt to see what they offer.

TEACCH: Deb Myers and Kim Higginbotham to attend consultation level training at UNC in January. Hopefully, may offer five day training in Structured Teaching next summer.

Communication (Chairperson: Janice Carter)

Continue to invite private providers to meetings. Next meeting First Steps.

Continue to develop a list of classrooms in each district that use PECS, TEACCH, & ABA, Social Stories, etc.

Continue to present on Success stories.

Have name tags for each member to help get to know each other

Next Meeting: January 27, 2005

Agenda:

Notebook contents to new members (6)

March newsletter to all members

Provide a PD activity on medical interventions for students with autism

Invite teacher using RDI to discuss with group

Invite First Steps to discuss program

Continue work on Autism 101 Teacher Tool Kit